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# Developing of Tuwel Tourism Village, Bojong District, Tegal Regency

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Tuwel Village, Bojong District, Tegal Regency has a great tourism potential, but the local community is not aware of this and has not been developed properly. The objectives of the activity are (1) developing the tourism potential, (2) empowering the Tuwel village community, (3) creating the tourism facilities in Tuwel village. The method used was the analysis of tourist attraction, analysis of tourism supporters, and analysis of the local communities. This community service was carried out with community partners in Tuwel Village, Bojong District, Tegal Regency. The result of this service is the optimization of the tourism potential by complementing the gate to a tourist attraction, helping the construction of the tourist counter of Sigeong Curug. As the result of this program, the community consciousness and Pokdarwis of Tuwel Village are increased and also the improving of the tourism facilities.

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#### 1. Introduction

Tuwel is a cool, beautiful, comfortable and peaceful village. It is located at the zero point of the intersection of the three regencies, namely Tegal Regency, Brebes Regency and Pemalang Regency. It is also the entrance to the Guci Tourism object. (Dwiyanto, 2004) Tuwel Village lies at the foot of Mount Selamet, Bojong District, Tegal Regency, Central Java, with an altitude of more than 800M above sea level.

Tuwel has an area of 557,600 ha, which is 333930 ha is paddy fields. From the area of the paddy fields, 272900 hectares are technically irrigated rice fields and 61030 hectares are simple irrigated rice fields (Affandy, 2019). The area consists of various types of land distribution, namely land rice fields with an area of 365 Ha, Upland is 68,016 Ha, Yard is 66,607 Ha, Settlement is 46,045, and others is 12,026 Ha.

The area of north Tuwel Village borders the village of Bojong, the south area borders the village of Guci, the east area borders the village of Rembul and the west area borders Sokasari village (Arida & Pujani, 2017). Tegal district, especially Guci village, has many tourist attractions, some of which are well known, such as Guci Bath, an natural thermal bath in the village. However, there are also many tourism areas that are not yet known (Sayung & Demak, 2015). One of the examples is Curug Sigeong, a hidden waterfall. It is located under the bridge. The size of Curug Sigeong is relatively small compared to the waterfall in general (Hermawan, 2021).

Curug Sigeong is surrounded by the neat cliff blocks. The water temperature in the waterfall is also fairly normal, not too hot and cold. It is very suitable for relaxation. On the right and left, there are small caves (Iwan Setiawan, 2019). The beautiful environment makes this tourist area is so wonderful. The location that supports and the freshness of the waterfall is the main attraction. However, there are not many tourists know about Curug Sigeong (Sarim & Wiyana, 2017). Based on these conditions, this service aims to further introduce the tourism of Curug Sigeong in Tuwel Village.

#### 2. Method

### 2.1 Analysis of tourist attraction

The analysis carried out namely (1) analysis of environmental condition; (2) analysis of the ease of the access to the tourism objects. Field analysis yielded the following findings:

- a. Curug Sigeong which is located in Hamlet Kemaron, Towel Village, Tegal Regency, is closed to the Guci tourist attraction.
- b. To reach the waterfall, it takes about 1.5 hours from the city center of Tegal. The access from the parking lot to the location is quite far, more or less we have to walk through the footpath and stairs for about one kilometer. This waterfall provides a different treat from other waterfalls because there is a source of warm water behind it. Furthermore, there is a cave around it which becomes an added value for the tourists who want to travel while relaxing with the warm water.

#### 2.2 Analysis of tourist support

The field analysis at the tourist sites shows that there is no adequate infrastructure and convenient for the tourists to go to the Curug Sigeong. (Ade & Affandi, 2016) In addition, there are no directions that make it easier for the visitors who come from Guci to find the location of the Curug Sigeong. There are also not many food and drink sellers available, which becomes a note in the analysis of supporting Curug Sigeong tourism.

#### 2.3 Community Analysis

As a rural area, the residents of Tuwel Village are predominantly working in the agricultural sector, then also in the manufacturing sector, as well as in social and cultural services (Gantina et al., 2021).

Apart from these sectors, there are also services such as health service and activity, financial institution, construction. Provision of food and beverage accommodation is able to absorb the labor in the village. The mining/excavation sector, transportation, warehousing, communication and the education sector are also as the places of work for the Tuwel villagers. The real estate, rental, and corporate services sectors are also occupied by the rural community (Nugroho, 2020).

The village community is a very ope-minded society in accepting the input (Arida & Pujani, 2017). Villagers also feel that they need some improvements so that Curug Sigeong can be more widely known. Based on the result of this analysis, the main partners of this activity are the residents of Kemaron hamlet, Tuwel Village.

#### 3. Results and Discussions

The development of tourism village can be carried out by the government together with the community by paying attention to the principle of difference that exist in the village so that it still reflects the national identity (Sayung & Demak, 2015). Various cultures, traditions, natural beauty, crafts and others are the identity of an island that is then becomes the basis for developing villages into tourist destination without any competition in attracting the tourists. (Nugroho, 2020) The 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia Article 33 Paragraph 3 becomes a reference in building and developing the villages for the progress and prosperity of the community together. (Sub-district & Regency, n.d)

All the elements in the village have the potential to attract tourists. The government and the community can develop the villages as tourist attractions with some of their wealth, such as adventure tourism, usually is done in the mountains (Saepudin et al., 2019). Because the ideal is there are towering trees, beautiful environment and still save the natural structures that have not been touched by human hands, agro tourism with one of the potentials for education, such as how to plant and harvest crops, especially if there are caves in the vicinity (Arida & Pujani, 2017). Marine tourism with a coastal feel also provides various water adventure such as sky boat and driving (Komariah et al., 2018). Maintaining the marine biodiversity such as mangroves can also bring double benefits (Suranny, 2020). Culinary tourism also introduces the regional specialties where they live.

Cultural and historical tourism in general are not much different. What must be considered is packaging such as making monument, museum, or other performances to preserve and introduce to the tourists. Creative tourism is identical to a local community craft (Hermawan, 2021). Village development strategy through community development can also be implemented so that one person with another has the same thoughts (Gantina et al., 2021). Although in the initial process through the brainstorming stage allows each person to have a discourse (Sarim & Wiyana, 2017). The understanding of the entire community can meet all the village needs because high innovation is needed to manage the development and developing of tourist village according to the capability of the village (Meranti, 2015).

A village can become a tourist village, if it fulfill with certain criteria, namely the existence of tourist attraction, all of which include nature, culture and human creations. The selected attraction is the most interesting and attractive in the village (Lisnawati & Lestari, 2019). Furthermore, the distance from tourist area, especially to tourist residence and also the distance from the provincial capital and the distance from the district capital are considered (Komariah et al., 2018). Then the size of the village concerns the number of houses, population, characteristics and the area of the village (NJCLD, 2016). This criterion relates to the carrying capacity of tourism in a village (Adityaji, 2018). Furthermore, the belief system and community are important aspects considering the existence of special rules in the community of a village. The last is the availability of infrastructure, including transportation facility and service, electricity facility, clean water, drainage, telephone networks and so on

Tuwel village is a village in the Tuwel area, with a distinctive Tegal style of language. The social situation of the Tuwel village community in general has a high solidarity trait, such as a sense of kinship, mutual cooperation, help and other social characteristics (Ayu et al. al., 2021). For example, when a family holds a wedding ceremony or is in a disaster, community members voluntarily provide assistance (Alfiaturrahman, 2016). The social attitudes that live in the village community occur naturally and are ingrained in daily life. Likewise, the Bojong village community still maintains these characteristics.

The developing of a tourist village is carried out based on the potential of the rural community itself. Therefore based on field analysis, it produced several programs carried out by PKM Family Law Study Program (Ahwal Syakhshiyah ) Unusia and partners to make the Curug Sigeong tourism better known include:

- Renewing the Curug Sigeong tourist gate, Kemaron hamlet, Tuwel Village, Tegal Regency to facilitate the discovery of the tourist site.
- Making the tourist booth for the Curug Sigeong to make it more organized for visitors who come
- Arrangement of cleanliness in the Curug Sigeong environment

. Here are the results of the implementation of PKM in increasing the tourism potential of Curug Sigeong. The renewal of the Curug Sigeong tourist gate was carried out with the assistance of residents.



Figure 1. Curug Sigeong Tourism Gate

The gate is an important facility that is needed in one area not only as a physical building but rather has its own function and meaning as a gate, which is the entrance to an area. It can also be interpreted as an icon symbol of a place, as a marker welcome for those who enter the area. Given the very importance of the gate, it is necessary to update it so that sigeong tourism is easier to find the location.

Besides, PKM team together with residents also create a tourist booth for the Curug Sigeong in order to make easier for the tourists to go to Sigeong tourism with the residents.



Figure 2. Making the tourist booth for the Curug Sigeong

In order to well organized and also attract the tourist, the team together with residents do mutual cooperation by cleaning the environment around Curug Sigeong.



Figure 3. Curug sigeong

Socialization on the importance of community empowerment in tourism development is carried out by lecturing and discussions. The result of this socialization is that public knowledge about tourism and the importance of the role of local residents in developing tourism objects.

#### 4. Conclusion

Curug Sigeong which is located in Towel village has the potential to be further developed and to be better known by tourists. After the implementation of this Community Partnership Program, Tuwel Village, Tegal Regency can maximize the existing tourism potential. The renewal of the tourist gate, as well as the construction of a si geong tourist counter and an increased the understanding of the community tourism is some efforts to advance the development of tourist village in Tuwel.

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